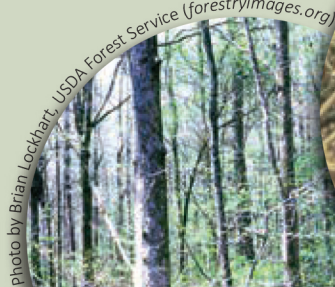


# Louisiana Black Bears

## The Cycle of the Seasons

### Winter

When food is scarce, bears go into "winter sleep." They rest in a safe den for months without food or water. Every other year the female gives birth to one to three cubs while in her den.



### Spring

By spring (April), cubs are active and beginning to learn about their world.

Insects, grasses and new growing leaves are important foods for bears in the spring.

Cubs are small and helpless when born. They nurse, cling to their mother and grow during the winter months. They stay together in the den until April.

Cubs stay with their mothers for one and a half years learning how to survive. After their second winter together, cubs head out on their own.

Bears can live to be as old as 20 years. A female could have up to eight litters in that time, but most bears don't live to such an old age.

Summer is the breeding season. Males travel long distances to find and compete for females.

Bears have strong, curved front claws, making it possible to climb trees for food and safety.

Bears are excellent climbers and can climb on delicate branches to reach fruits and nuts. Nuts are an important fall food for bears. Acorns and other nuts provide fat that bears need to survive the winter.

### Fall

\*Cycle of Seasons information courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Fruits and berries are the food of choice in the summer. They are high in sugar and energy.

### Summer